

GREAT DANES

...as pets



By EVELYN MILLER

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By EVELYN MILLER

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Not all Great Danes are brown, there are black ones and spotted ones too.

THE HISTORY OF THE GREAT DANE

Not all dog history is as interesting, or as complicated, as the history of the King of Dogs, the Great Dane. Perhaps our story should start with how the Great Dane got its name, for certainly it should not be so-called. The French, with their usual twist, gave this huge dog several names, one of which was *grand Danois*. Actually, the translation of this phrase is "big Danish," and might just as well have referred to a piece of pastry as to a dog. When imports of the *grand Danois* were received in England, they called them Great Danes. To this day no one knows why, for the breed was initiated in Germany and has been known as the *Deutsche Dogge*, or *German Dog* for many years. Perhaps the familiar arrogance of the German breeders in the 1880's was responsible for the rejection of this name, for in 1880 the German dog judges called a meeting and voted that the Great Dane should always be called a *Deutsche Dogge*. To this day it is still so-called in Germany, but no where else in the world!!

Many naturalists and scientists have tried to determine the ancestry of the Great Dane, but none have had their results accepted. Rather, the present day Great Dane historians accept *all* the views and prefer to say their Great Danes came from both Irish Wolfhound and English Mastiff. The Germans were the first to publish a standard for this breed and nearly every country has used a translation of the German standards. As a matter of fact, German dogs have been

recognized all over the world as the outstanding examples of the Great Dane breed.

Historically, the Germans developed the breed to hunt and fight one of the most vicious animals the world knows, the European Wild Boar. This powerful beast was the "elite" game of the Continent, and the author was honored in having eaten a wild Boar hunted down by Great Danes in Spain!! It was delicious.

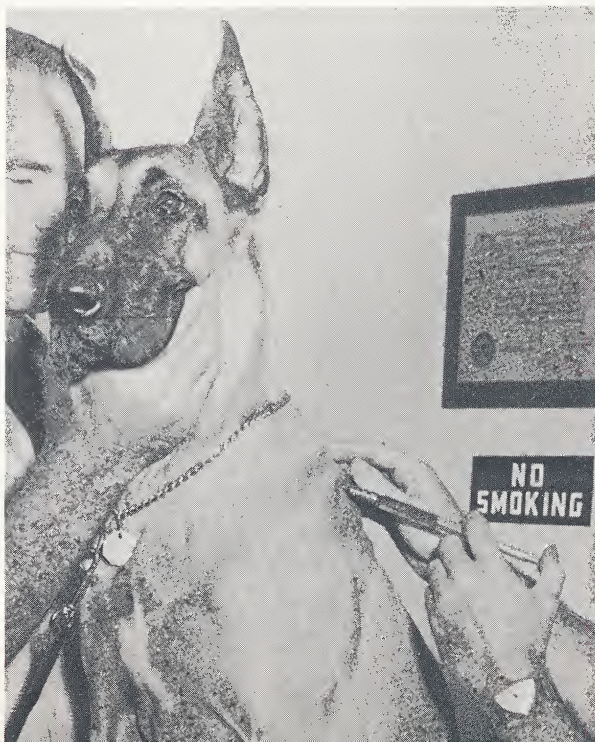
There are dog historians who claim having records to prove that the Great Dane, or a dog that looks a lot like him, existed as a distinct breed as early as 1121 B.C. They show photos of drawings made from the early Chinese literature. Mr. Cassell even claims that they existed 3,000 B.C. due to the similarity between the Great Dane and some of the favorite dogs of the Egyptians. Undoubtedly the ancestors of every dog were alive thousands of years ago because the dog certainly did not drop onto the earth from another planet in its present form.

Be that as it may, here you have a giant dog, with the ability to do real damage to an adversary in a fight, but with the temperament of a Chihuahua!!

HOW TO SELECT A HEALTHY GREAT DANE

There are many ways in which to acquire a pet dog. We will break these ways down into two groups: Those ways in which you have a choice of the dog and those ways in which fate has brought you and the dog together.

Take your Great Dane for regular checkups to your veterinarian. He is a dog's best friend and can inoculate him against many fatal diseases.



Naturally fate has intervened when a youngster comes walking into the house with that adorable puppy. He looks up at you with those sad eyes and in a matter of seconds he has won your heart. In a case like this you may have no choice. You can hardly throw the puppy out into the street and you might not have the heart to call in the humane society. So you have your dog!

The stray dog is less of a problem than the gift dog, for if a friend gives you a puppy as a gift, you might even be more hesitant about getting rid of it or refusing it. Here again, you have a dog which you didn't select for yourself.

Stray dogs should be handled with care, not only for health reasons, but for legal reasons. Many times a dog will stray from home and the owner will report to the police that the dog had been stolen. If you come across a stray dog, report it immediately to the police. Then, if no one claims the dog within a few days, you will be given permission to keep the dog yourself. Always take the new dog to a veterinarian IMMEDIATELY. You must be sure that the dog is healthy!

When you have the opportunity to purchase your own dog, there are many considerations.

First, and foremost, you must decide upon the type of dog. Do you want a large dog or a small dog? Do you want a pet quality or a show quality? How much can you afford to spend for your dog? These questions must be answered in your own mind before you go out and buy your dog. Chances are that if you are an apartment dweller, you will want a small dog.

If possible, buy a puppy between the ages of 8 weeks and 4 months. These margins are quite open, and perhaps you can take the puppy at 5 or 6 weeks of age and have no fears. It is advantageous to choose a puppy for three important reasons:

1. The puppy is not attached to anyone when you get him.
2. He is more easily trained.
3. You will have him with you longer.

When you select your dog, keep in mind the following facts:

1. Small dogs are sensible in small apartments.
2. Large dogs are more expensive to feed than small dogs.
3. Do not keep large breeds unless they can be penned up in an area large enough for them to get plenty of exercise. Vicious dogs allowed loose are a menace and can be taken away from you by law if you do not maintain them properly.
4. Working dogs need plenty of exercise and running space. It would be cruel to keep a large working dog cooped up in a small apartment.

5. Long-haired dogs can sleep out of doors in a suitable insulated doghouse.

As far as the external symptoms of an unhealthy dog are concerned, look for these:

1. Running eyes.
2. Cough.
3. Diarrhoea.
4. Body temperature should be 102°F. if dog is normal.
5. Dogs should not be listless.
6. Look at his skin closely for red blotches (could be mange, ringworm, eczema or fungus).

When you buy your dog have an understanding with your petshop that you will take your dog *immediately* to a veterinarian and if he advises you the dog is in poor condition, that you will have the right to return the dog (usually you will be required to have a note from the vet substantiating your claims).

MALE OR FEMALE GREAT DANE?

The eternal question of which is better a male or female dog certainly can be answered. It is an established fact that females are more lovable and affectionate than male dogs. Then again, male dogs have certain habits which makes toilet training a bit more bothersome. Female dogs, as a general rule, are much easier to train, they are more faithful, and can have puppies (if you desire) which can be sold for a profit. With the female her only disadvantage is her "heat" period.

Every normal female dog has a certain period that occurs every six months or so. These periods last for about 3 weeks, during which time a slight discharge is noticed. It is during this time that she must be mated, and the proper time is usually about the tenth day after the start of flow. Naturally the female must be closely watched during these times for she will not discriminate between male dogs when one is allowed near her. If it is your intention to breed her you must select a suitable male. Since she is a purebred dog she should be mated with another purebred dog of the same breed. Then pedigree papers and registration papers make the puppies that much more valuable. If you have a mixed breed dog the selection of the stud dog is entirely open, for even if you have a small female and you mate her with a small male, there is no guarantee that the puppies will be small. It is the continuous inbreeding of pure lines that guarantee that if you mate two pure breeds you will get the same puppies as the parents.

That's the advantage of spending a few dollars more to get yourself a purebred dog.

CARING FOR THE GREAT DANE PUPPY

Once you've selected your puppy, you have taken on a responsibility. The puppy must have a place which he can call his own. This little space can be under a table, behind a chair or out in the doghouse, but it must be his own and it should always be in about the same place. When you have assigned the puppy to his area, furnish his home with a bed, two dishes and a few toys. The bed can be anything from an old box with papers on the bottom, to a special metal or wooden bed with a cedar-filled mattress (to keep down the odor and parasites). One dish is for food, the other for milk. The toys (usually hard rubber bones or real soup bones) will give the pup something to occupy himself with when you aren't fussing with him, and something to teeth on. If you don't furnish your puppy with ample teething material, he'll go to work on the nearest chewable item, be it the wooden bed, leg of a chair, rug or what-have-you. Sometimes an old shoe or slipper is appreciated, but the dye in the shoe might make your dog ill. Play it safe and pick up a toy at your petshop . . . they are quite inexpensive.

It must be assumed that when you bought your dog you also bought a harness and lead, a brush and comb, and some dog food. You will need those articles in training and caring for the dog. In the winter a sweater or blanket may be necessary.

Though it is common sense, it would be best to point out that the location of the puppy's bed should be free of draughts and disturbances. Don't make the dog sleep in an area which is constantly disturbed every time the door is opened or whenever the television set is put on. A puppy needs his rest if he is to grow into a fine and healthy animal.

GREAT DANE'S FIRST NIGHT IN HIS NEW HOME

The first night the puppy is in your home will undoubtedly be a memorable one, for you shall not get much sleep. The pup will probably cry and yap a good deal for he is in a strange situation with strange noises, strange smells and above all he will be cold and lonesome. It is only natural for the poor thing to be frightened.

The puppy has been accustomed to sleeping entwined among his brothers and sisters, each keeping the other warm. To substitute for this you must give the puppy something to take his brother's place.



For their size, the Great Dane is one of the most gentle dogs known. It is a necessity that your dog be trained or he could jump on you with joy and might do some damage.

An ideal thing would be a hot water bottle, for this is soft, warm and cuddley. If possible wrap the hot water bottle in some heavy toweling, for the puppy might start chewing it up and you'll have a wet floor to contend with. Other suitable substitutes are stuffed dolls, alarm clocks (the ticking is soothing to the puppy) or your own bed. Your own bed is the most suitable for the dog, but the least suitable for you, especially if the puppy is very young, for there are liable to be accidents.

If the puppy starts crying in the middle of the night, offer a bit of warm milk and one of the above mentioned companion-pieces. Let's hope this does the trick, otherwise you've got yourself a bed partner for a few nights. After the puppy has become accustomed to his new home, he should be disciplined severely for crying in the night, but give him a chance to become acclimated to his new surroundings.

FEEDING YOUR GREAT DANE

If possible, get a diet from the petshop or breeder of your puppy. It is not beneficial to the puppy to have his diet changed every time he changes hands. If you cannot get a diet, or you are raising your own puppies, the following schedules have been tried and proven a hundred times.

FEEDING CHART

AGE—5 weeks to 5 months. (Four meals per day).

DIET—MORNING MEAL: Cereal with milk or egg (raw) with milk.

AFTERNOON MEAL: Soup, broth or milk with puppy meal, chopped meat, chopped horsemeat or canned dog food. Baby foods are excellent for puppies too.

EVENING MEAL: Canned dog food or any meat and rice cooked together until very soft. Puppy meal can be substituted for rice.

LATE EVENING: Saucer of warm milk.

AGE—5 months to 8 months. (Three meals per day).

DIET—Cereal, kibbled bisquits, or whole egg in milk for breakfast. For supper offer canned dog food or vegetables, meat and dog meal all cooked together. If puppy meal or dog bisquits are used do not cook with meats but add after meat and vegetables have been cooked. Offer milk in the evening.

You had better train your Great Dane at an early age to stay off the furniture or you will be having a lot of trouble as he grows up.



but it only helps in the initial training and dogs always sniff around a bit until they find the proper location. If they are able to locate a familiar area, they can make up their minds so much faster. The quicker you result in housebreaking your puppy, the less time you will have to tolerate his random maneuvers.

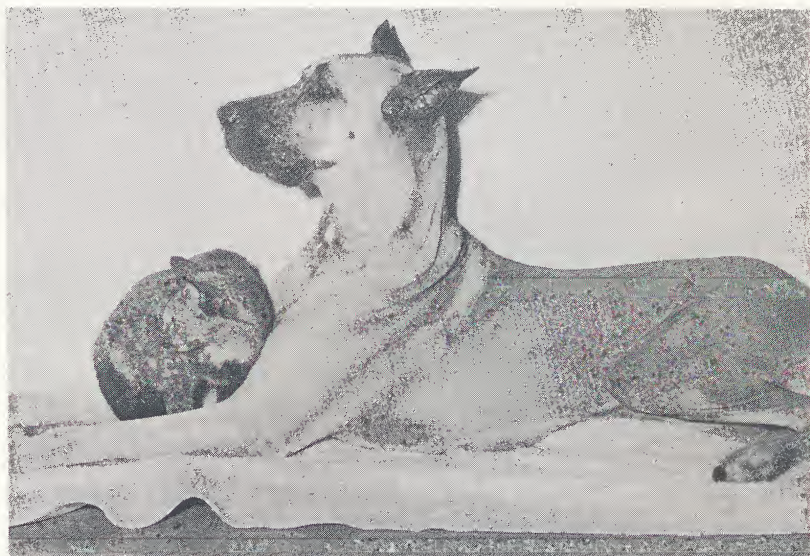
If you are around the puppy often enough to actually catch him in the act of breaking his training, then it is permissible to scold him in a harsh tone of voice and give him a light tap on his snout with your finger. Don't be foolish enough to discipline the dog AFTER he's committed the act, for he will not know what he's being scolded for and it will only confuse him.

If you are able to walk your dog every two hours and after each meal, you can easily break your dog to make his toilet on the outside. Be sure you insist that he goes into the gutter or in the grass. Never allow him to dirty the sidewalk or on other people's private property, for then he will embarrass you in stores and when you are visiting with him. Every dog soon finds a favorite spot and they nearly always return to these spots for relief. For the puppy, the spot is nearly always where other dogs have been, so if you know of such a spot, it will make your job so much easier. After your puppy has done his business in the proper area, reward him immediately with a bit of meat and a pat and some kind words. It doesn't take him long to figure out that you are pleased when he does as he should.

While walking your dog, be sure that there is an understanding between you and the dog as to who is the boss. Don't allow him to pull you in all directions. It is easy to train your dog to walk properly on the lead by holding the dog very close to your feet on a short leash. If he wants to pull, jerk him back with the sharp command **HEEL!** A light slap on the snout with your finger will emphasize that he shouldn't pull. It takes but a few long walks to have your dog walking closely beside you on a leash, and finally he will do the same on a loose lead.

The education of your dog is far from complete if he is merely housebroken and knows how to walk on a lead. If you want an animal that you can own with pride, you must train him in other fields. Training your dog intellectually distinguishes you from the next person. Your dog will only be as intelligent as you want him to be. Understand that your dog does not speak the same language that you do, and that training is a long repetitious process requiring a constant use of the same hand and word command. If you are to be a success with your dog you must actually learn to think as your dog thinks. Dogs do things solely from their own point of view. They do not act to give you pleasure or render you a service because they love you, they act

because they have something to gain by it. This gain might be a kind word, a piece of meat, a pat on the rump or a friendly hug; or it might mean NOT getting bawled out or slapped on the snout. But whatever the reward, there must be some reason for your dog acting the way he does. With this in mind you must place your dog in situations that are such that he cannot get out of them without doing as you desire. For example, if you want him to keep off the furniture, you must teach him to sit at your feet in the living room and to follow you wherever you go. When you allow him into the room scold and punish him severely when he jumps on the chairs; but when he sits at your feet, pet him gently and talk in a low, reassuring voice. It is not long before he learns what will reward him and what will result in punishment. This same treatment works for all social graces.



Who says every Great Dane is rough? One gulp and the small kitten would disappear, but the Great Dane is a gentle dog.

Remember this, when punishing your dog you must do so while the dog is in the actual act of disobedience. If you punish him later, he will not understand you and this will add greatly to his confusion.

Once you've taught him a few things by this method (and you can start by training him to come when he hears his name or when you whistle), other things will be easy. Keep up the training during the first three or four months that you have the dog and the training will be easier and easier.

BRUSHING YOUR GREAT DANE

It is essential that you brush your dog's coat. This brushing serves two purposes: It keeps his hair free of dirt, burrs and foreign objects and it stimulates the natural oils that make his coat shiny and beautiful. Then, too, in most dogs, it prevents his shedding loose hairs all over the house. Regular and thorough brushings eliminate the need for frequent bathing.

To properly brush your dog, first start brushing him lightly, in the direction in which the hair is growing. After you have brushed him completely, comb his hair in the same direction, then, time permitting, give him a vigorous brushing, without actually hurting the dog. It's a funny thing about dogs, if you accidentally hurt him while brushing or combing, a few kind words will make the hurt disappear, but if he jumps away from you when he is hurt and you shout at him and roughly drag him back again, it will not be too long before he hates the sight of a brush and comb and there will be a constant struggle every time you want to brush him. Make the brushing fun for both of you by being gentle.

BATHING YOUR GREAT DANE

Should your dog become dirty or begin to have a bad odor, it will be necessary to bathe him. There are several types of baths for your dog. The first type, the wet bath, is the familiar dog soap or dog shampoo and water. Fill a tub of water about 4 inches high with luke warm water. Gently place the dog into the bath and with a plastic or metal cup, wet him down with the water by pouring it over him. **DO NOT GET WATER IN HIS EYES OR EARS.** After he is thoroughly wet, put some special dog shampoo on his back and work up a lather by rubbing him briskly. Do this to all parts of his body. Clean one paw at a time. Work around his head very gently, but be sure that his head and face are the last parts to be cleaned, for if his head is wet, the water will drip into his eyes and he will be very uncomfortable. It is of the utmost importance that no soap gets into his eyes. If possible, have your pet shop owner actually demonstrate on your dog the best way to bathe him. You will be expected to pay the petshop owner for the bath, but you will then learn the correct way to bathe your particular dog.

After your dog has been bathed, he must be thoroughly dried with heavy towels and rubbed until his fur is free of dampness. Most professionals use an ordinary hair dryer for this purpose and if you

have one at home, use it. This is especially important in the winter time when your dog can easily pick up a cold if he is not properly dried. A word of warning about drying your dog. As soon as you have finished washing your dog, he will attempt to shake off the water from his fur. Unless you want a shower bath yourself, you'd better waste as little time as possible in getting him out of the tub and getting a towel around him. Once you've rubbed most of the water from him, he can finally be allowed to shake himself dry. A dog does this instinctively, so don't think for a moment that he's trying to get even with you for wetting him down . . . or is he?

If your house is too cold, or you are afraid to bathe a small dog because of the weather, your petshop will be able to supply you with various types of dry baths. These preparations are usually rubbed into the dog's fur very thoroughly and then they are dried with a heavy towel. The dog doesn't really get wet, but he ends up with a bright shiny coat and has lost his doggy odor. Read the directions on the bottle or can, for there are slight variations in the use of the different brands.

Do not bathe your dog too often. Every three months is sufficient and if you brush him regularly, once a year is enough.

THE TEETH

The teeth of the dog require attention from time to time. If there is an accumulation of food particles between the dog's teeth or there is a calcification between the teeth, have the petshop or vet remedy the situation for you. If the teeth are just a wee bit discolored, or the dog has bad breath, then you can easily clean the dog's teeth with a soft cloth. Hold the dog firmly and lift his upper lip. Rub his teeth gently with the cloth saturated with hydrogen peroxide. Some dog owners use salt, bicarbonate of soda or regular tooth paste. Fortunately, if a dog is fed properly, his teeth will cause him little trouble. Feeding your dog hard biscuits helps in building strong teeth and in keeping the teeth clean.

THE EARS

Ears give a dog more trouble than their teeth. You must examine your dog's ears regularly. Sponge them gently with cotton and warm water. No soap should be used. If there is dirt a little deeper in the ear, swab it out with a cotton swab which has been dipped into olive oil or mineral oil. A dog is very sensitive about its ears and they should

be handled very gently. If possible, have someone hold the dog firmly while you are cleaning its ears as the dog will be fairly nervous while you are poking about with the swab; take care that a sudden movement doesn't plunge the swab deep into the ear!

THE NAILS

When dogs are kept in a house most of the time, their nails become long and sharp. Special dog nail clippers are available to cut their nails with, though it is safer to allow an experienced pet shop manager or veterinarian do the job. If a clipper is not handy, then use a nail file. Do not clip or file the nails too closely, as you are liable to sever the blood vessel running into the nail.

BREEDING

The subject of breeding dogs would fill several volumes by itself, but our intention is merely to present a few points in outline form for that person who finds himself in the role of a dog breeder without having any intentions of doing so!

Though a dog is able to breed when it is six or seven months old, it is better to restrain both male and female, until they are at least a year old. It is poor policy to breed a dog in its first heat. One gentleman once remarked that he lets nature take its course. "After all" he said, "what did they do when they were wild?" This may be true, but we are not dealing with wild dogs now, but dogs that have been domesticated and under man's care for about 8,000 years. It is foolish to let nature take its course, for we don't let the dog hunt its own food, nor do we allow for the law of nature which demands the survival of the fittest.

When selecting a mate, get a male dog the same approximate size as the female dog. Arrange the mating between the 10th and 12th day after the flow of the heat. At this time the female will be swollen large enough to receive the male and conception will be greatly facilitated. It is uncommon that a first breeding does not take and if you are dealing with a pedigreed dog which commands a high stud fee, try to make arrangements for a return service should the first service be unsuccessful.

The usual length of gestation in a dog is from 59 to 63 days. That is, 63 days after mating, the female should have her puppies. If the dog is to be wormed or bathed, she should be treated during the first month after mating; leave her alone after that time or you might have trouble with her.

Once the puppies have been born, change the bedding every day and keep the mother quiet and well fed. Feed plenty of milk. Disturb her as little as possible and do not handle the puppies unless it is absolutely necessary. The handling necessary in the cleaning of her bedding is sufficient enough . . . don't add to it.

Sometimes a normally friendly dog, will become a bit nasty when she has her puppies. This is a strictly defensive attitude and is a manifestation of the extreme parental care that some dogs show their pups. If your dog acts in this manner toward strangers, she should be kept away from the strangers. Think how you would feel if people wanted to handle your own infant!

Leave the puppies alone the first three days if they all look alright. Feed the mother dog with milk and cereal and some soft meats. After the third day examine the puppies and get them accustomed to being handled. Once they are a week old their dew claws may be removed. (The dew claws are the extra and useless claws growing inside on the leg). Have a veterinarian do the job. The puppies hardly feel the clipping of their dew claws, so don't worry about hurting them.

The puppies eyes will open when they are 9 or 10 days old. If the eyes open slowly after that time, they should be bathed daily with warm water and cotton, or a dilute human eye lotion.

After three weeks of age the puppies should be weaned. Take each puppy gently from the box and dip his nose lightly into some luke warm milk.

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR GREAT DANE IS ILL

No book can teach you to treat an illness of your dog. Not only is there the problem of treatment of the disorder, but there is a problem in properly diagnosing the illness. If your dog should become ill or manifest any of the symptoms of a particular disease, call in a veterinarian.

FLEAS

As in the best of homes, it is not uncommon that our little pets might come home with unexpected . . . and unwelcome . . . friends. These fleas or mites can easily be seen under a strong light, but your dog will let you know well in advance by his constant scratching. Don't worry about getting the fleas on yourself for dog fleas like dogs, not humans, and they will never stick onto you.

Bathe the dog with special flea soap and then dust him with flea powder.

NOTES ON YOUR GREAT DANE

When you have first purchased your dog it is wise to continue the same diet and schedule. This outline should be filled in as a permanent record of your puppy.

DOG'S NAME

DOG'S BIRTH DATE.....

PURCHASED FROM

TELEPHONE No.....

VETERINARIAN'S NAME

TELEPHONE No.....

D I E T

Morning Meal.....

.....

.....

.....

Afternoon Meal

.....

.....

.....

Evening Meal

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